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## NEWS AND COMMENTS

Plans are rapidly nearing completion for the twelfth annual meeting of the Mississippi valley historical association to be held at St. Louis, Missouri, May 8 to 10, 1919. The chairman of the program committee, Mr. Herbert A. Kellar, of the Cyrus H. McCormick library, Chicago, Illinois, has secured promises from several very able scholars to present papers, and the program bids fair to be attractive and well balanced. The committee on local arrangements, of which Mr. John H. Gundlach is chairman, has been assured a hearty coöperation on the part of the Missouri historical society and Washington university; both institutions have handsome buildings which will afford convenient meeting places. The usual courtesies, such as luncheons and automobile rides, will be extended.

The dates were selected as near as possible to May 11, the one hundredth anniversary of the arrival in St. Louis of the first steamboat, the *Independence*. The celebration of this occasion will mark the inauguration of a series planned for the centennial of Missouri's admission into the union.

A convention in the interests of Mississippi valley foreign trade was held at New Orleans on January 13 and 14, 1919. The theme for discussion, as announced, was "Promotion of Mississippi valley foreign trade and securing more adequate steamship facilities via gulf ports," with a view to promoting steamship facilities from gulf ports to the markets of Mexico, Central and South America, the orient, Australia, Africa, and Europe. A series of papers covering the subject in all its phases were read by experts in the field, opening a new interest for the Mississippi valley.

*The German war code*, by James Wilford Garner, has recently made its appearance as one of a series of University of Illinois *Bulletins*, under the direction of the university war committee.

Bennet Copplestone's *The silent watchers* (New York: E. P. Dutton and company, 1918. 342 p. \$2.00) is written in the eulogistic strain of the man whose admiration for a subject does not dull with close familiarity. It is a glowing record of England's navy during the great war, written by a man who "knows the navy and loves it with his whole soul." It is just this blind devotion that detracts from the merit of the

work. The author forgets his own aphorism that the "navy hates advertisement and scorns above all things in heaven or upon earth the indiscriminate praise of well-meaning civilians." Mr. Copplestone's style is smooth, the narrative straightforward, often terse, the action easily handled.

*Democracy and the great war* is an historical outline prepared by George N. Fuller, secretary of the Michigan historical commission, for use in public schools. It covers references in a wide field of books and articles, and is supplemented by a series of essays which discuss many phases of the war — political, industrial, and social.

Admirably suited to the psychology of war but on too exalted a plane for the workaday peace world is the collection of poems, songs, and addresses called *The spirit of democracy*, edited by Lyman and Gertrude Powell (New York: Rand McNally and company, 1918. 272 p.). It introduces to its readers the utterances of men who, carried away by patriotic enthusiasm, voiced noble and stirring ideas; and yet, if the truth be told, most of them have since the signing of the armistice carefully sidestepped the issues which they saw so clearly during the storm and stress of war. The book, edited for school use, lacks depth — the selections introduced are all of the same nature. It falls short of its purpose, as stated on the title-page: "Patriotism through literature." For in the words of Charles Evans Hughes, who is given a hearing in its pages, "we want something more than thrills in our patriotism — we want thought." The book furnishes the thrills, but is eminently lacking in thought.

Albert H. Lybyer, of the University of Illinois, who has been making historical surveys of the Bulgarian situation under Colonel House, is now continuing his work at Versailles.

The Historical society of East and West Baton Rouge has elected H. L. Garrett secretary-treasurer, to succeed William O. Scroggs, who resigned to accept a position with the shipping board.

Attention has been called to the first three volumes of historical collections published by the Joseph Habersham chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, of Atlanta, Georgia. The volumes contain much genealogical material, bits of county and local history, transcripts from court records, and the like.

The western branch of the American oriental society held its annual meeting at the University of Illinois, February 28 to March 1. The meeting of the society was devoted to a symposium on reconstruction in the orient, especially with reference to the work done by its members.

The president of the American oriental society this year is J. H. Breasted of the University of Chicago. The officers of the western branch are Julian Morgenstern of Hebrew Union college, president, and A. T. Olmstead, University of Illinois, secretary-treasurer.

A check list of collections of personal papers in historical societies, universities and public libraries compiled by the library of congress, although by no means complete, forms a valuable index of many important historical collections in this country.

The August, 1918, *Hispanic American historical review* contains a discussion by William Spence Robertson of "The recognition of the Hispanic American nations by the United States," and an article on "Bolívar and the United States" by William R. Shepherd.

In the *Bulletin des recherches historiques* for November and December, 1918, may be found an interesting article entitled "Le projet de conquête de la Nouvelle-York de M. de Callières en 1689." Two other items of interest in the November issue are "Les arpenteurs de Montréal au XVIII siècle," and "L'esclavage au Canada sous le régime anglais."

The "Journal of Jonathan Russell, 1818-1819" is an original document reprinted in full in the *Massachusetts historical society* for May-June, 1918. It comprises a very interesting account of a trip through continental Europe, giving an intimate glimpse of Europe of a century ago, notably Sweden, France, Italy, and Austria. The student of European history will find here a valuable contemporary picture of the social and cultural life of the period.

*A contribution to the bibliography of agriculture in Virginia*, the latest bulletin of the Virginia state library, is a carefully compiled list of source and secondary material bearing on the history of agriculture in Virginia. The sources date back to Virginia as a colony. The first letter mentioned is one written by John Rolfe in 1616. Articles in the *American farmer*, 1819-1834, and in the early numbers of the *Richmond Enquirer*, as well as extracts from the writings of Washington are among the sources used by the compiler, Earl J. Swem.

A narrative sketch of the activities of the State historical society of Iowa in war times, by Benjamin F. Shambaugh, comprises the December issue of *Iowa and war*.

Major Godfrey de Linetot, who assisted George Rogers Clark in conquering the northwest, is the subject of a sketch by George A. Brennan in the latest number of the *Journal* of the Illinois state historical so-

ciety. "Historical notes on Lawrence county, Illinois," "Reminiscences of Lake Forest academy," and the "Early history of Pleasant Hill, McLean county, Illinois" complete the articles of historical interest in the issue.

The middle west, so rich in historical material of Catholic association, is to be the subject of study of the *St. Louis Catholic historical review*, a new publication which made its initial appearance in October, 1918. Catholic St. Louis, "the Rome of the West," dates its beginnings to 1541, when Hernando De Soto erected a cross on "a high hill" in its vicinity. In the succeeding centuries its historical importance has not waned. The quarterly, which is published by the Catholic historical society of St. Louis under the able editorship of the Reverend Charles L. Souvay, will be sure to interest historians of the Mississippi valley.

The December issue of the *Wisconsin magazine of history* contains a sketch of Alfred Brunson, a pioneer of Wisconsin Methodism, by his daughter, Ella C. Brunson. Another interesting article is that by Louise P. Kellogg, entitled "The Hudson company tokens."

The war, far from limiting the historical activities of the State historical society of Wisconsin, has widened and expanded its field of labor. The accessions to the library have been characterized by what Mr. M. M. Quaife, its superintendent, calls "a healthy growth." Over 400,000 titles, including books, pamphlets and newspapers, were added during the year ending in September, 1917. Among important documentary material may be listed photographic copies of material in the archives of the Indies at Seville which throws additional light on Spanish activities in the Mississippi valley. The Lapham papers, another recent accession, will prove useful in the interpretation of pioneer Wisconsin.

*Historia*, published by the Oklahoma historical society, makes its bow on January 1, 1919, in a gossipy number, devoted to light reminiscences of the past year, a sketch entitled "Among the Osages," which although it covers seven columns is little more than an extended notice of the Roddy family, a brief account of the doings of the society, and a list of the recent accessions to the library.